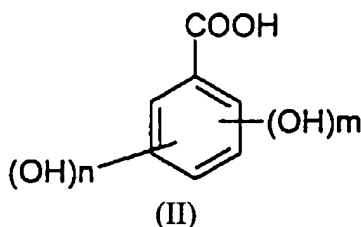


Amendments to the Claims:

Claim 1. (Currently amended): A titanium-derived compound ~~satisfying the~~ having formula (I) below:



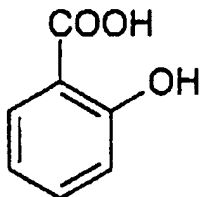
in which L represents a compound of formula (II) below:



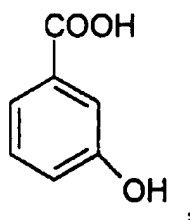
in which m is 1 and n is 0, 1 or 2,

~~and x represents 2, 4 or 5, y represents 1 or 2 and z represents 0, 1 or 2; in the form of enantiomers, of diastereoisomers, as well as the mixtures thereof, including the racemic mixtures, of free bases or of a pharmaceutically acceptable salts~~ salt thereof.

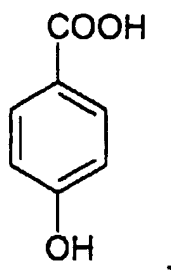
Claim 2. (Currently amended): A compound according to Claim 1, wherein ~~the compounds L~~ are ~~is~~ chosen from ~~benzoic acid derivatives, in particular~~ 2-hydroxybenzoic acid of formula:



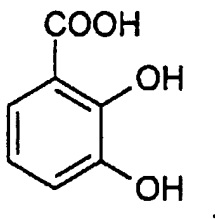
3-hydroxybenzoic acid of formula:



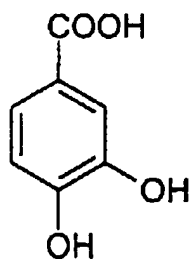
4-hydroxybenzoic acid of formula:



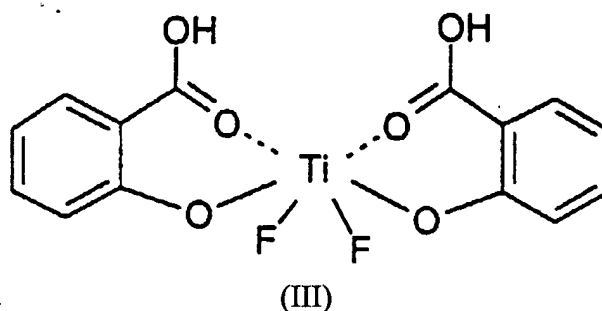
2,3-dihydroxybenzoic acid of formula:



and 3,4-dihydroxybenzoic acid of formula:



Claim 3. (Currently amended): A compound according to Claim 1, ~~wherein it satisfies the~~
having formula below (III):

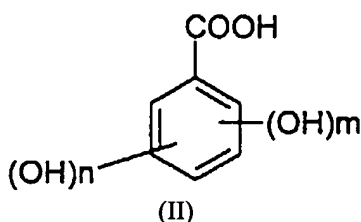


Claim 4. (Currently amended): A method for preparing a titanium-derived compound according to Claim 1 wherein solid titanium IV fluoride is reacted with a solution of benzoic acid in an anhydrous solvent ~~such as acetonitrile~~, under a nitrogen atmosphere.

Claim 5. (Currently amended): A composition for buccal use, ~~wherein it comprises at least one~~ comprising a titanium-derived compound ~~satisfying the~~ having formula (I) below:



in which L represents a compound of formula (II) below:



in which m is 0, 1 and n is 0, 1 or 2,

~~and x represents 2, 4 or 5, y represents 1 or 2 and z represents 0, 1 or 2; in the form of enantiomers, of diastereoisomers, as well as the mixtures thereof, including the racemic mixtures, of free bases or of a pharmaceutically acceptable salts~~ salt thereof.

Claim 6. (Currently amended): A composition ~~for buccal use~~ according to Claim 5 ~~wherein it comprises at least one~~ comprising a titanium-derived compound in an amount which is equivalent to from approximately 10 ppm to approximately 10,000 ppm of fluorine.

Claim 7. (Currently amended): A composition ~~for buccal use~~ according to Claim 5 ~~wherein it is~~

in the form of toothpaste or toothgel, of mouthwash, of spray, of foam, of gargling product, of dental gel or of chewing gum, balm, paste, glaze, lozenge, tablet, antiseptic throat preparation, powder, or concentrated or unconcentrated solution.

Claim 8. (Currently amended): A composition ~~for buccal use~~ according to Claim 5 ~~wherein it also comprises at least one~~ further comprising a polishing agent of inorganic or organic origin in proportions ranging up to 80% by weight with respect to the total weight of the composition.

Claim 9. (Currently amended): A composition ~~for buccal use~~ according to Claim 8, wherein the polishing agent comprises ~~in particular~~ calcium, magnesium or sodium carbonate or bicarbonate, calcium phosphates ~~and or~~ sulphates, alumina ~~and or~~ hydrated alumina, silicas, magnesium oxides, hydroxides, trisilicates ~~and or~~ pyrophosphates, cellulose compounds obtained by crushing cereal seeds, sodium or potassium metaphosphates, calcium phosphate dihydrate, dicalcium phosphate, tricalcium phosphate, calcium pyrophosphate, ~~alumina, hydrated, and in particular trihydrated, aluminas, aluminium~~ aluminum or zirconium silicates, bentonite, ~~as well as~~ magnesium orthophosphate or trimagnesium phosphate.

Claim 10. (Currently amended): A composition ~~for buccal use~~ according to Claim 5 ~~wherein it also comprises~~ further comprising one or more cohesion agents, in proportions ranging up to approximately 10% by weight with respect to the total weight of the composition, chosen ~~in particular~~ from natural thickeners ~~such as alginates or pectins~~, natural gums ~~such as gum tragacanth or xanthan~~, guar, carob, ~~or carrageenan gums~~, synthetic carrageenates, and synthetic thickeners ~~such as cellulose derivatives for instance the sodium salt of carboxymethylcellulose, methylcellulose, hydroxyalkylcelluloses or crosslinked polyacrylic acids.~~

Claim 11. (Currently amended): A composition ~~for buccal use~~ according to Claim 5 ~~wherein it also comprises~~ further comprising one or more surfactants of anionic, amphoteric, zwitterionic, cationic or nonionic nature.

Claim 12. (Currently amended): A composition ~~for buccal use~~ according to Claim 5 ~~wherein it also comprises~~ further comprising one or more active agents used in buccal hygiene, ~~in particular agents known to reduce bad breath, such as for example chlorhexedine, cetylpyridinium chloride,~~

~~cyclodextrins or zinc compounds such as zinc halides, zinc acetate, zinc citrate or zinc fluoride.~~

Claim 13. (Currently amended): A composition for buccal use according to Claim 5 ~~wherein it also comprises~~ further comprising one or more cohesion agents, thickeners, antibiotics, ~~sweetening~~, wetting or refreshing agents, peptizing agents, preserving agents, sweeteners, dyes, aromas, flavourings ~~and or~~ flavour-enhancing substances, plasticizers, antibacterial agents ~~or bactericides~~, vitamins, antitartar agents, healing agents, vasomotor agents, anti-bleeding agents, agents which are active on the gums, or anti-inflammatory agents ~~such as enoloxone, benzydamine, allantoin or permethol.~~

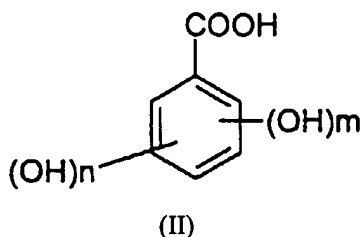
Claim 14. (Currently amended): A composition for buccal use according to Claim 13, wherein the sweetening agents comprise sucrose, lactose, fructose, xylitol, sodium cyclamate, sodium saccharinate or maltose, sodium or ammonium glycyrrhizates, alpha-glucosyl/ steviolglucoside mixtures, D-mannitol, aspartame, acesulfame K, sorbitol, lycosin ~~and or~~ mixtures thereof.

Claim 15. (Currently amended): A composition for buccal use according to Claim 13, wherein the antibacterial agents comprise essential oils, plant extracts, ~~or substances such as alexidine, oetinidine~~ octenidine, hexetidine, phenoxyethanol, phenethyl alcohol, triclosan, chlorhexidine, cetylpyridinium chloride ~~and or~~ delmopinol, in proportions ranging up to approximately 10% by weight with respect to the total weight of the composition.

Claim 16. (Currently amended): A method of protecting against dental caries which comprises administering a titanium-derived compound ~~satisfying the~~ having formula (I) below:



in which L represents a compound of formula (II) below:



in which m is 0 or 1 and n is 0, 1 or 2,
and x represents 2, 4 or 5, y represents 1 or 2 and z represents 0, 1 or 2; ~~in the form of enantiomers, of diastereoisomers, as well as the mixtures thereof, including the racemic mixtures, of free bases or of~~ or a pharmaceutically acceptable salts salt thereof.

Claim 17. (Currently amended): A method for preparing a titanium-derived compound according to Claim 2, wherein solid titanium IV fluoride is reacted with a solution of benzoic acid in an anhydrous solvent ~~such as acetonitrile,~~ under a nitrogen atmosphere.

Claim 18. (Currently amended): A method for preparing a titanium-derived compound according to Claim 3, wherein solid titanium IV fluoride is reacted with a solution of benzoic acid in an anhydrous solvent ~~such as acetonitrile,~~ under a nitrogen atmosphere.

Claim 19. (Currently amended): A composition ~~for buccal use~~ according to Claim 6, ~~wherein it is in the form of toothpaste or toothgel~~ toothgel, of mouthwash, of spray, of foam, of gargling product, of dental gel or of chewing gum, balm, paste, glaze, lozenge, tablet, antiseptic throat preparation, powder, or concentrated or unconcentrated solution.

Claim 20. (Currently amended): A composition ~~for buccal use~~ according to Claim 6, ~~wherein it also comprises at least one~~ further comprising a polishing agent of inorganic or organic origin in proportions ranging up to 80% by weight with respect to the total weight of the composition.

Claim 21. (Currently amended): A composition ~~for buccal use~~ according to Claim 7, ~~wherein it also comprises at least one~~ further comprising a polishing agent of inorganic or organic origin in proportions ranging up to 80% by weight with respect to the total weight of the composition.

Claim 22. (Currently amended): A composition ~~for buccal use~~ according to Claim 19, ~~wherein it also comprises at least one~~ further comprising a polishing agent of inorganic or organic origin in proportions ranging up to 80% by weight with respect to the total weight of the composition.

Claim 23. (Currently amended): A composition ~~for buccal use~~ according to Claim 20, wherein the polishing agent comprises ~~in particular~~ calcium, magnesium or sodium carbonate or

bicarbonate, calcium phosphates ~~and or~~ sulphates, alumina ~~and or~~ hydrated alumina, silicas, magnesium oxides, hydroxides, trisilicates ~~and or~~ pyrophosphates, cellulose compounds obtained by crushing cereal seeds, sodium or potassium metaphosphates, calcium phosphate dihydrate, dicalcium phosphate, tricalcium phosphate, calcium pyrophosphate, ~~alumina, hydrated, and in particular trihydrated, aluminas, aluminium~~ aluminum or zirconium silicates, bentonite, ~~as well as~~ magnesium orthophosphate or trimagnesium phosphate.

Claim 24. (Currently amended): A composition ~~for buccal use~~ according to Claim 21, wherein the polishing agent comprises ~~in particular~~ calcium, magnesium or sodium carbonate or bicarbonate, calcium phosphates ~~and or~~ sulphates, alumina ~~and or~~ hydrated alumina, silicas, magnesium oxides, hydroxides, trisilicates ~~and or~~ pyrophosphates, cellulose compounds obtained by crushing cereal seeds, sodium or potassium metaphosphates, calcium phosphate dihydrate, dicalcium phosphate, tricalcium phosphate, calcium pyrophosphate, ~~alumina, hydrated, and in particular trihydrated, aluminas, aluminium~~ aluminum or zirconium silicates, bentonite, ~~as well as~~ magnesium orthophosphate or trimagnesium phosphate.

Claim 25. (Currently amended): A composition ~~for buccal use~~ according to Claim 22, wherein the polishing agent comprises ~~in particular~~ calcium, magnesium or sodium carbonate or bicarbonate, calcium phosphates ~~and or~~ sulphates, alumina ~~and or~~ hydrated alumina, silicas, magnesium oxides, hydroxides, trisilicates ~~and or~~ pyrophosphates, cellulose compounds obtained by crushing cereal seeds, sodium or potassium metaphosphates, calcium phosphate dihydrate, dicalcium phosphate, tricalcium phosphate, calcium pyrophosphate, ~~alumina, hydrated, and in particular trihydrated, aluminas, aluminium~~ aluminum or zirconium silicates, bentonite, ~~as well as~~ magnesium orthophosphate or trimagnesium phosphate.

Claim 26. (Currently amended): A composition for buccal use ~~wherein it comprises~~ comprising a compound according to Claim 2.

Claim 27. (Currently amended): A composition for buccal use ~~wherein it comprises~~ comprising a compound according to Claim 3.

Claim 28. (Previously added): A method of protecting against dental carries which comprises administering a compound according to Claim 2.

Claim 29. (Previously added): A method of protecting against dental carries which comprises administering a compound according to Claim 3.

Claim 30. (New): A composition according to Claim 10 wherein the cohesion agent is selected from the group consisting of alginates, pectins, gum tragacanth, xanthan, sodium carboxymethylcellulose, methylcellulose, hydroxyalkylcellulose, and crosslinked polyacrylic acids.

Claim 31. (New): A composition according to Claim 12 wherein the active agent used to reduce bad breath is selected from the group consisting of chlorhexidine, cetylpyridinium chloride, cyclodextrins, zinc halides, zinc acetate, zinc citrate, and zinc fluoride.

Claim 32. (New): A composition according to Claim 13 wherein the anti-inflammatory agent is selected from the group consisting of enoloxone, benzydamine, allantoin, and permethol.